



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
NICOLE PARRA
Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

March 9, 2007

Hello Friends,

I was truly honored to select **Magda Menendez as Woman of the Year in the 30th District**, and feel that she wholly embodies the ideal of giving of oneself for the good others. Magda has devoted her life to community service, always seeking to help others by remaining an active, highly involved member of our community.

“I am truly honored to receive this award, and thank my husband Luis and family for the support they provide. They are the reason I am able to continue working so hard to help the people of Kern County,” said Magda Menendez.

Ms. Menendez, a resident of Kern County, has been with the **Mexican American Opportunity Foundation** since 1981, where she is responsible for the day-to-day program operation; supervision of 16 full-time employees; and 12 programs that provide daily employment training services for over 300 Kern County residents. In addition to her employment, she is currently serving as a **Board Member for the Workforce Investment Board of Kern, Inyo, and Mono Counties**; she is a **founding Board Member of the Latina Leaders of Kern County**, a **Governing Board Member of the Kern County Network for Children**; a **Board Member of the Blanche and Irma Weill Foundation**, and serves as the **Vice-President of the Richard Prado East Bakersfield Senior Center**.

“It is important to remember the individuals in our community who face challenges most of us have never even thought about. When provided with opportunity, these underserved and disenfranchised individuals have so much to offer society. We must continue to reach out to them and provide that assistance,” said Magda.

The Woman of the Year event is held annually to commemorate extraordinary women in California actively working toward making a difference in their respective communities. On Monday, March 5, 2007 honorees convened in Sacramento for a special ceremony which was held on the floor of the State Assembly.

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This Week in Sacramento

I began my week by meeting with the **California Cattlemen's Association** to discuss issues relative to food safety and E. Coli prevention measures. I was happy to hear the Cattlemen are working proactively to establish protocol through which they'll not only prevent outbreaks of E. Coli in the Cattle industry, but also measures to respond quickly and effectively should the need arise. For more information, please visit <http://www.calcattlemen.org>.

The **Kern County Superintendents Advisory Committee** came by for an in-depth discussion of priorities for this year. I am committed to protecting school funding, ensuring adequate funding for school transportation, and working with Kern County school officials to adequately plan for educational facility needs for our growing student population.

Mr. Manny Diaz, former Assemblyman from the 23rd District, visited my office to discuss a unique issue which his client, Loya Insurance, has been facing. He is working with the **23rd District Assemblyman Joe Coto** on legislation that will foster an increase in the number of entry level jobs available in California's Insurance industry, and provide specialized insurance offerings to a large swath of individuals, particularly those with low incomes and few if any assets.

The **California Wine Growers Association** shared many of the issues of concern to them. A significant contributor to California's economy and our agriculture, the Wine Growers are continuing to pursue promising disease control methods to protect their grapes.

I am pleased to have completed additional **Ethics Training** available to all legislators. I remain firmly committed to protecting the integrity of my office and the legislature.

Highlight of the Week

During this last week in the Assembly, I was able to submit a 'yes' vote on SB 113. This bill, once signed by the Governor, will establish a February Presidential Primary in California. Historically, our Presidential Primary has been later in the year than states like Ohio and Connecticut. Therefore, these States' voters are having more of an impact on the outcome of the Primary than California's voters, who encompass not only a larger, more economically powerful state, but also adhere to principles which are often unique to California's widely diverse population.

I look forward to continuing my work with Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez and the rest of the Assembly to ensure California's voice is heard through our ability to effect change during the Presidential Primary.

Freeze Relief Aid

The impact of the Freeze continues to be felt throughout the Valley. I recently joined Community Action Partnership of Kern in their kick-off for the Freeze Relief efforts. I have met with several

families who told me their stories of the economic struggles they are now facing. I will continue to help all victims of the freeze that are facing economic constraints, and work with the appropriate state agencies to continue to put pressure on the federal government to provide us with more relief. On **April 1st** I will join **Community Action Partnership** once again and participate in an event at **El Mercado Latino at 1 p.m.** For more information on how can be a part of this effort contact **Michal Yniguez at 661-336-5236.**

For questions about assistance in Kings, Fresno, or Tulare Counties please contact Teresa Plascencia at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at Teresa.Plascencia@asm.ca.gov

For questions about assistance in Kern County please contact Mina Tovar at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Mina.Tovar@asm.ca.gov

When Visiting Sacramento

As always, thank you to everyone who stops by my office. As a reminder, next time you find yourself in Sacramento stop by my new office and say hello. The office is now located on the 5th floor in room 5155. If I'm unavailable please leave your business card with my staff and I will do my best to get in contact with you.

If you know anyone who would enjoy receiving Parra Notes please have them e-mail [Brandon Sanders](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov) so they can be included in our distribution list.

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov.

Interns Wanted

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at:

Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at:
Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov

Parra Notes Go Monthly

In an effort to provide you with a better overview of my efforts and activities on behalf of the wonderful residents of the 30th Assembly District, ***Parra Notes*** will be sent out monthly. At the end of each month, I will continue to provide you with the big picture of what is taking place in the District and Sacramento – and our progress to improve the quality of life in Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties.

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